

Amendments to the Specification

Please delete the first heading before paragraph [0001].

Description

Please replace the heading before paragraph [0003] with the following amended heading:

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Please replace the heading before paragraph [0007] with the following amended heading:

Description of the invention SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please replace paragraph [0008] with the following amended paragraph:

[0008] This object is achieved by the features of Claim 1. In a molding tool of the above-mentioned type according to the invention, the internal molding surfaces of the tool are provided with a microstructuring according to the lotus leaf effect and/or with a permanent anti-adhesion coating, e.g., using a fluorinated plastic or a diamond-like coating. It has been found that using the molding tool according to the present invention makes it possible to achieve a permanent parting effect. Furthermore, formation of skin is almost completely prevented, which is particularly important for the use of the molded foam bodies as acoustic components, for example, in the automobile industry, because the porous surface enhances sound absorbance. It has also been found that flow shearing forces in the surface areas of the molded foam body could be reduced. By reducing the flow shearing forces, the bubble structure becomes considerably more uniform, because the foam is not subjected to excessive mechanical stresses during the foaming process. This results in a considerably better molded foam body quality. This is advantageous in particular in the case of molded foam bodies in which the height/length and/or height/width ratio is small, because in those components the portion of the volume affected by flow shearing forces is particularly great. The reduced flow resistance reduces the internal pressure in the mold required to fill the cavity during the foaming process. This ultimately results in lighter tools and tool carriers. The material consumption is reduced due to a reduced lateral waste in the aeration region. Finally, the specific weight of the finished molded foam body may be reduced, because the material used is processable at a lower internal pressure.

Please add the following new heading after paragraph [0015]:

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Please replace paragraphs [0016] to [0023] with the following amended paragraphs:

[0016] ~~The appended figure~~ Figure 1 shows comparative measurements of sound absorption by molded foam bodies, manufactured according to the conventional method using a parting agent and using a molding tool having an anti-adherence coating. The curves show the equivalent absorption surface A in m² as a function of frequency Hz. The solid curve shows the values measured for a molded foam body produced using a tool having an anti-adherence coating. The dashed curve, in contrast, shows the values measured for a molded foam body produced in a tool using parting agents. The molded foam body produced using the novel molding tool showed considerably improved sound absorption.

[0017] ~~The appended drawing~~ Figure 1 shows the effects of the present invention on the molded foam part.

[0018] Figure-1 2 shows a greatly enlarged top view of the surface of a molded foam part having projections for skin formation caused by the use of parting agents.

[0019] Figure-2 3 shows a greatly enlarged top view of the surface of a molded foam part having a porous foam surface from a cavity equipped according to the present invention without skin formation.

[0020] Figure-3 4 shows a greatly enlarged top view of the surface of a molded foam part having projections for skin formation caused by the use of parting agents.

[0021] Figure-4 5 shows a greatly enlarged top view of the surface of a molded foam part having a porous foam surface from a cavity equipped according to the present invention without skin formation.

[0022] Figure-5 6 shows the enlarged view of a section of the surface region of a molded foam part having visible distortions of the bubble structure and artifacts caused by flow shearing forces.

[0023] Figure-6 7 shows the enlarged view of a section of the surface region of a molded foam part from a cavity equipped according to the present invention without distortions of the bubble structure.

Please delete page 8 of the specification.

Please replace the heading on page 9 with the following heading:

~~PATENT CLAIMS~~ WHAT IS CLAIMED IS: